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SUBJECT: Deputy Secretary Steinberg Letter to President Aliyev on Behalf of Boeing (S/ES: 200908675)

¶1. Please deliver the following message from the Deputy Secretary to President Aliyev. There will be no signed original.

¶2. Begin text:

Dear Mr. President:

The State Department has recently been informed by executives of Boeing Commercial Aircraft that Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) is seeking to push back delivery of two Boeing 737 aircraft and to cancel delivery on two additional Boeing 737 aircraft. We also understand that the first two 737 aircraft are set to be delivered in 2010 and are already in production. Boeing has told us that they are flexible and committed to finding a solution to any concerns that AZAL may have.

Over the last few years, Azerbaijan has made significant progress in raising its profile with the international business community. Your success in being named the world's top reformer in the World Bank's 2008 "Doing Business" report was a major achievement. At a time when Azerbaijan is attempting to diversify its economy and to raise its commercial profile in the United States and with international companies, the abrogation or unilateral change to a signed contract could negatively impact Azerbaijan's international business reputation. I encourage you to work with Boeing and AZAL officials to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement to permit delivery of the four aircraft as provided in the contract.

Sincerely,

James B. Steinberg

End text.

CLINTON